

drugs through a tax deduction, and tax parity with those of us who have employer-provided tax-deductible health insurance. Expansively, this benefit extends to all IRS-defined health insurance premiums such as an HMO, PPO, a traditional indemnity plan, a new HSA, and also long-term care premiums. Right now, under the current tax code, in order to claim health care expenses individuals must file an itemized tax return. My bill would simplify and extend this tax preference for all filers.

I also am reintroducing the Allied Health Reinvestment Act of 2005, along with my friend Dr. Strickland from Ohio. This important legislation offers incentives via scholarships and loans to encourage students and faculty to enter the essential but undersupplied allied health professions, such as physical, occupational, and speech rehabilitation, and medical and radiological technologists to name a few.

Also, with an eye towards the value of human life, I reintroduce my Human Cloning Research Prohibition Act, which restricts federal funding and encourages other nations to do so as well.

Finally, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of establishing a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) awareness month. I do this again with my friend Mr. Lewis of Georgia. In past Congresses, this bill has had tremendous support from Members and from the U.S. COPD Coalition, which comprises the patient and provider community. The House passed this legislation in the summer of 2003, and we started a bicameral Caucus in the winter of 2004 to advance our efforts. COPD is an umbrella term used to describe the airflow obstruction associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This is a debilitating disease, that is currently the nation's fourth leading cause of death, and I am proud to bring awareness to COPD.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on all these important pieces of business for the nation.

HONORING ALBERT ASHBROOK
FOR HIS SERVICE AS LICKING
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEY and I wish to join many of our constituents in Licking County, Ohio in congratulating Albert Ashbrook, who is retiring after more than 16 years of service as a county commissioner.

Albert's work was summed up best recently by a former colleague, who noted that Albert never shied away from the tough issues and was always looking out for the best interests of the people and county government. We would add that he did so not only with a plain spoken dedication to duty, but also a tremendous sense of humor.

Licking County has grown and changed for the better during Albert's tenure. He's helped with the creation of a Domestic Relations

Court, a one-stop employment service and improved auto licensing and titling facilities, just to name a few of the projects in which he has had a hand. At the same time, he's always made fiscal responsibility a top priority.

Public service has been a way of life for Albert. Prior to his work as a commissioner, he served in various capacities with the Soil and Water Conservation District, and is a member of the District Hall of Fame.

Although he's leaving the commissioners' office, Albert is hoping to continue his community involvement as a member of the Licking County Planning Commission. In any event, we know he'll still be there to offer guidance and advice to anyone with the good sense to seek it.

We are honored to have this opportunity to thank Albert for all his hard work, and wish him and his wife Shirley many more active years together.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS LONGHORNS ROSE BOWL
CHAMPIONS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Longhorns, playing in the Rose Bowl for the first time in the team's 110-year history, made the New Year's Day game a memorable one.

Twice the Longhorns came from behind the Michigan Wolverines to win 38–37 as the clock ran out in what many contend was the most exciting Rose Bowl ever. UT Quarterback Vince Young rushed for 192 yards and four touchdowns, a Rose Bowl record. He also threw for 180 yards and a touchdown. This capped a 10–1 regular season record.

The University of Texas has a great football team, coached by Mack Brown. But it has a great academic reputation, too.

Led by President Larry Faulkner, UT recently was ranked as the 15th best university in the world by the Times of London newspaper. Among U.S. public universities, only the University of California at Berkeley was listed ahead of UT.

It's a pleasure to cite the strengths of UT. It's also a pleasure to represent such a premiere University in Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE MINNESOTA STATE CAP-
ITOL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol first opened its doors on January 2, 1905 and on January 2, 2005, over 6,000 people attended

the first of a full year's worth of birthday celebrations.

The Minnesota State Legislature first met in a log hotel when Minnesota was declared a territory in 1849. The first Capitol building was built in 1853, but burned in 1881. The second, built in 1882, was erected on the same downtown St. Paul site as the first. As Minnesota's population grew, officials realized that the building would soon be too small to house the Legislators and a new building would be needed. In 1895, Cass Gilbert from St. Paul was selected to design the new building. It took nine years and \$4.5 million to complete construction of the new capitol, which is still in use today.

Today, the Minnesota State Capitol building is more than just a place for the Legislature. It is a museum dedicated to preserving Minnesota's history. Its many priceless artifacts detailing Minnesota's past include flags that were carried by Minnesotans who served in the Civil War and statues of influential Minnesota political figures.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years the Minnesota State Capitol has served as a place of government, history and learning. As a fourth generation Minnesotan whose ancestors were well established in the state when this capitol was built, I am pleased to be able to help honor it today as a lasting symbol of the spirit of Minnesota.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
GREGORY PAUL RUND

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and heartfelt admiration that I rise today to honor a fallen Marine from my district, Lance Corporal Gregory Paul Rund of Littleton. Sadly, Lance Corporal Rund was killed in the line of duty during combat operations on December 11 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Lance Corporal Rund was with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division based in Camp Pendleton, California.

He was just 21 years old.

Greg was a 2002 graduate of Columbine High School in Jefferson County, where he played football and later made the decision to serve his country by joining the Marines. Greg was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He made an indelible impression on all who knew him, and will be remembered as a dedicated, energetic and warm person who had a great sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Rund. He served his country honorably and with distinction, making the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy in defense of a grateful nation. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude. His dedication and bravery will not be forgotten.